

Washington, DC - This afternoon, Congressmen **Ciro D. Rodriguez (TX-23)** and **Charles A. Gonzalez (TX-20)** announced that the Department of Veterans Affairs designated over \$15 million in federal funding for two projects in San Antonio. The projects for Audie Murphy Memorial Veterans Hospital are a direct result of the historic increase in funding for the VA passed by Congress in 2007.

Specifically, \$5.9 million has been designated to renovate the existing Surgical Intensive Care Unit (SICU) suite to accommodate a 10 bed Surgical Progressive Care Unit (SPCU), a 14 bed SICU, and a 6,000 square foot surgical recovery area. In addition, \$9.9 million will be used for transitional housing at the new Polytrauma Rehabilitation Center. The housing will facilitate and support progressive transitional rehabilitation to return surviving veterans of multiple traumatic injuries to independent living.

"As a Member on the House Committee on Appropriations, I am proud of the investment this Congress has made in the upgrade and modernization of our veterans' health care facilities," said Congressman **Ciro D. Rodriguez**. "The new San Antonio Polytrauma Center will be state-of-the-art facility to comprehensively treat soldiers with complex injuries, and this is a first great step towards the construction of the center."

"These resources are a direct result of Congress's historic investment in veterans' healthcare," said Congressman **Charlie Gonzalez**. "Last year, Congress passed the single largest increase in funding for Veterans Affairs in the department's history, and I'm proud to watch our efforts pay dividends in San Antonio. This investment truly demonstrates that we will honor our veterans' valor and service with quality health care," he added.

###